

## **Assembly Bill No. 836**

### **CHAPTER 299**

An act to amend Section 1645 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to dentists.

[Approved by Governor September 9, 2013. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 9, 2013.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 836, Skinner. Dentists: continuing education.

Existing law, the Dental Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of dentists by the Dental Board of California until January 1, 2016, at which time the board shall be subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature. Existing law authorizes the board to require licentiates to complete continuing education hours as a condition of license renewal. Existing law authorizes the board to, by regulation, reduce the renewal fee for a licensee who has practiced dentistry for 20 years or more in this state, has reached the age of retirement under the federal Social Security Act, and customarily provides his or her services free of charge to any person, organization, or agency.

This bill would prohibit the board from requiring a retired dentist who provides only uncompensated care to complete more than 60% of the hours of continuing education that are required of other licensed dentists. The bill would require all of those hours of continuing education to be gained through courses related to the actual delivery of dental services to the patient or the community, as determined by the board. The bill would require the board to report on the outcome of that provision, pursuant to, and at the time of, its regular sunset review process.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1645 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1645. (a) Effective with the 1974 license renewal period, if the board determines that the public health and safety would be served by requiring all holders of licenses under this chapter to continue their education after receiving a license, it may require, as a condition to the renewal thereof, that they submit assurances satisfactory to the board that they will, during the succeeding two-year period, inform themselves of the developments in the practice of dentistry occurring since the original issuance of their licenses by pursuing one or more courses of study satisfactory to the board or by other means deemed equivalent by the board.

The board shall adopt regulations providing for the suspension of the licenses at the end of the two-year period until compliance with the assurances provided for in this section is accomplished.

(b) The board may also, as a condition of license renewal, require licentiates to successfully complete a portion of the required continuing education hours in specific areas adopted in regulations by the board. The board may prescribe this mandatory coursework within the general areas of patient care, health and safety, and law and ethics. The mandatory coursework prescribed by the board shall not exceed fifteen hours per renewal period for dentists, and seven and one-half hours per renewal period for dental auxiliaries. Any mandatory coursework required by the board shall be credited toward the continuing education requirements established by the board pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) For a retired dentist who provides only uncompensated care, the board shall not require more than 60 percent of the hours of continuing education that are required of other licensed dentists. Notwithstanding subdivision (b), all of the hours of continuing education as described in this subdivision shall be gained through courses related to the actual delivery of dental services to the patient or the community, as determined by the board. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to reduce any requirements imposed by the board pursuant to subdivision (b).

(d) The board shall report on the outcome of subdivision (c) pursuant to, and at the time of, its regular sunset review process, as provided in Section 1601.1.